

**From:** [HOPE Bruce](#)  
**To:** [cstivers@anchorenv.com](mailto:cstivers@anchorenv.com)  
**Cc:** [ANDERSON Jim M](#); [Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#)  
**Subject:** Sediment degradation  
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Hi Carl,

I got your voice message but will be in DC most of this week. I haven't read EPA's comments but this issue was mentioned in conversation and my take is that a half-life other than infinity (i.e., no degradation) is probably appropriate for organic contaminants. I'm currently most familiar with PCBs where, unfortunately, the real experts are of differing opinions as to what might be appropriate default half-lives. Half-lives in the literature for individual congeners in sediment range from 1000 to 500,000 hours. A conservative choice would be 500,000 hr (about 50 years).

Bruce